

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05  
EB-08 IGA-02 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 AF-08 ARA-10  
EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 /134 W  
-----232026 016115 /41

R 231800Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2838

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: UN, EAGR, OCON  
SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL: THIRD MONTHLY CONSULTATION IN  
PREPARATION FOR 1977 MEETINGS

REF: STATE 1493

SUMMARY: THE THIRD MONTHLY CONSULTATION OF  
REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS IN PREPARATION FOR THE  
1977 MEETINGS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, FOCUSED ON THE  
MINISTERIAL SESSION IN MANILA IN JUNE, PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY  
FEBRUARY 21 ON THE BASIS OF A PAPER ON ORGANIZATION OF THE  
MEETINGS REFLECTING PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS. ALTHOUGH JAPAN  
SUGGESTED A BRIEF POSTPONEMENT OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING,  
AS THE US AND UK HAD DONE IN JANUARY, THE DATE APPEARED  
ACCEPTABLE TO OR PREFERRED BY THE GREAT MAJORITY, AND THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WAS TOO LATE  
TO CHANGE IT. A SIMILAR CONSTRAINT OF TIME APPLIES TO THE  
PROVISIONAL AGENDA ORIGINALLY CIRCULATED, WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE  
MET WITH GENERAL APPROVAL. THE SECRETARIAT NOW PLANS TO  
FORWARD IT UNCHANGED TO THE PREPARATORY MEETING, WHICH  
WILL SHAPE THE AGENDA FOR THE MINISTERIAL SESSION. THE CHAIRMAN  
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OF GROUP-77 RAISED A NEW CONCEPT FOR CONSIDERATION IN DECIDING  
UPON THE OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL'S 1977-78 MEETINGS: HE SUGGESTED  
THAT IN THE INTEREST OF CONTINUITY, CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO  
RE-ELECTING EITHER THE PRESIDENT OR RAPPORTEUR FOR A ONE-YEAR  
TERM AND THUS ESTABLISHING A STAGGERED SYSTEM OF ELECTIONS,  
NOTWITHSTANDING RULE OF PROCEDURE 13 SETTING A TWO-YEAR TERM.  
THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON DISCOURAGING AND LIMITING

GENERAL STATEMENTS IN THE MINISTERIAL MEETING, ON A PROCEDURE OF FREE DISCUSSION, AND ON ACTION IN THE FORM OF DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, OR CONCLUSIONS, AS APPROPRIATE. A FURTHER CONSULTATION WILL BE HELD IN LATE MARCH, AND POSSIBLY STILL ANOTHER IN APRIL. END SUMMARY

1. THE DISCUSSION FOLLOWED A WELL-PREPARED PAPER ON ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRD SESSION.

A. DATES REMAIN FIXED AS MAY 9-13 FOR THE PREPARATORY MEETING IN ROME, AND JUNE 20-24 FOR THE MINISTERIAL SESSION IN MANILA. JAPAN SUGGESTED POSTPONEMENT OF THE MINISTERIAL SESSION BY ONE WEEK TO JUNE 27, TO GIVE ADDITIONAL TIME TO DIGEST THE RESULTS OF THE FAO COUNCIL MEETING AND OTHER EARLIER MEETINGS. NOTING THAT THE UNITED STATES IN THE JANUARY CONSULTATION HAD FAVORED POSTPONEMENT UNTIL JULY 11 AND THE UNITED KINGDOM UNTIL JULY 5, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HANNAH SAID IT WAS TOO LATE TO CHANGE THE DATE AND THAT MOST COUNTRIES HAD INDICATED THAT THE JUNE 20 DATE WAS ACCEPTABLE, ALTHOUGH THE DATE WAS NOT SATISFACTORY TO ALL.

B. ON OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL, AMBASSADOR RODRIGO OF SRI LANKA, CHAIRMAN OF GROUP-77, PRESENTED A NEW THOUGHT FOR CONSIDERATION. HE POINTED TO THE NEED FOR SOME CONTINUITY IN OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL, AND RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME OF THE OFFICERS MIGHT BE RE-ELECTED FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM, DESPITE THE TWO-YEAR TERM FIXED IN RULE 13, SO AS TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY AND A STAGGERED SYSTEM OF ELECTION IN THE FUTURE. THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, SPEAKING ON A PERSONAL BASIS, SAID THAT HE UNCLASSIFIED

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THOUGHT THE IDEA MERITED CONSIDERATION AND ITS BEING RAISED AT THIS TIME WOULD AFFORD TIME FOR GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER THE IDEA AND WHETHER AMENDMENT OF RULE 13 WOULD BE REQUIRED OR NOT. THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR SECONDED THE U.S. REMARKS, AND ASKED THE SECRETARIAT'S VIEWS AS TO WHETHER AMENDMENT OF RULE 13 WOULD BE REQUIRED. SECRETARY OMOTOSO REPLIED THAT THE SECRETARIAT WAS OF THE OPINION THAT AMENDMENT OF RULE 13 WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED, IF AGREEMENT WERE REACHED AMONG MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO ELECT ONE OFFICIAL FOR A ONEYEAR TERM AND OTHERS FOR TWO-YEAR TERMS. THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT STAGGERING OF TERMS BE CONSIDERED ONLY FOR THE VICE-PRESIDENTS, BUT THE SRI LANKA AMBASSADOR SAID HE BELIEVED STAGGERING FOR CONTINUITY SHOULD BE APPLIED BY RE-ELECTING THE PRESIDENT OR RAPPORTEUR, TO A ONE-YEAR TERM. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUGGESTED THAT THE FORMULA HE WORKED OUT AS PART OF CONSULTATIONS AMONG GOVERNMENTS ON COMPOSITION OF THE BUREAU.

C. AND D. PLANS STILL CONTINUE FOR AN INFORMAL MEETING OF HEADS OF DELEGATION, PROBABLY AT A DINNER THE EVENING OF

SUNDAY JUNE 19, AND FOR A ONE-DAY FIELD-TRIP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SESSION, TO INCLUDE A VISIT TO THE INTERNATIONAL RICE INSITUTE IN LOS BANOS. NO OBJECTIONS OR COMMENTS WERE MADE.

E. ON THE AGENDA, THE SECRETARIAT SAID THAT AFTER CAREFUL STUDY OF THE PREVIOUS CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS, IT HAD DECIDED THAT NO ACTUAL REVISION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA WAS NEEDED. COMMENTS HAD BEEN MADE ON INTERPRETATION OF ITEMS AND THEIR RELATIVE IMPORTANCE, BUT NO CHANGE IN LANGUAGE SEEMED NECESSARY BEFORE PRESENTING IT TO THE PREPARATORY MEETING, WHICH WOULD ITSELF SHAPE THE AGENDA FOR THE MINISTERIAL SESSION. (MORE COMING)

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-08 IGA-02  
COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /135 W  
-----232031 016184 /41

R 231800Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2839

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.....SESSION.  
CUBA SAID THAT ITS PREVIOUS SUGGESTION THAT MORE ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER WOULD NOT REQUIRE A REPHRASING OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA. ARGENTINA, SPEAKING FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP, SAID THAT GROUP WOULD PRESENT TO THE GROUP-77 A PROPOSAL INVOLVING NO MORE THAN A RE-ORDERING OF THE AGENDA. ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR WALTERS POINTED OUT THAT IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE TO PREPARE DOCUMENTS ON ANY NEW AGENDA ITEMS.

F. GUIDANCE ON STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS WAS MODIFIED. THE PAPER CIRCULATED BEFORE THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING CALLED FOR NO GENERAL STATEMENTS OR DEBATE, WITH STATEMENTS DIRECTED TO THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND GENERALLY BRIEF (NO LONGER THAN FIVE MINUTES). APPARENTLY IN RECOGNITION OF OBJECTIONS THAT SOME MINISTERS MIGHT INSIST UPON MAKING A GENERAL STATEMENT, THE SECRETARIAT MODIFIED THE GUIDANCE TO INDICATE THAT THERE

WOULD BE NO SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM FOR GENERAL STATEMENTS AND THAT ANY GENERAL STATEMENTS MADE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO SPECIFIC ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND KEPT AS BRIEF AS POSSIBLE.

G. ON PROCEDURE AT THE MINISTERIAL SESSION, A NEW CONCEPT WAS ADVANCED: "THE MAIN WORK AT THE MINISTERIAL SESSION SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN 'EXECUTIVE SESSIONS', TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSALS  
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FROM THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL. THE PROCEDURE AT THESE SESSIONS SHOULD BE ORGANIZED TO FACILITATE A FREE, DIALOGUE-ORIENTED, ACROSS-THE-TABLE, DISCUSSION. IN ORDER TO ALLOW MAXIMUM FRANKNESS AND INFORMALITY WHILE MINISTERS ARE DISCUSSING THE COUNCIL'S DECISIONS, THESE SESSIONS WILL NOT BE OPEN TO THE PRESS OR PUBLIC." THE U.K. REPRESENTATIVE (LAYDEN SUBSTITUTING FOR LANDYMORE) SUPPORTED THIS CONCEPT SAYING HE BELIEVED IT REFLECTED SUGGESTIONS SUBMITTED BY UK GOVERNMENT. THERE WAS NO DISSENT, EXCEPT FOR OBJECTION BY THE YUGOSLAV AND ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVES TO CLOSURE OF MEETINGS TO PRESS AND PUBLIC. SECRETARIAT SAID IT HAD BEEN NOTED IN REVIEW OF PAPER THAT THIS IN FACT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO RULES OF PROCEDURE, AND SUGGESTED IT BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT THE MINISTERS MIGHT DECIDE THAT THE SESSIONS WILL NOT BE OPEN TO THE PRESS OR PUBLIC, TO WHICH FORMULATION NO ONE OBJECTED.

HH. AS FOR FORM OF ACTION OF THE COUNCIL, THE PAPER STIPULATED THAT THERE MIGHT BE THREE FORMS: 1) /DECISIONS/ THAT THE SECRETARIAT CARRY OUT CERTAIN TASKS, OR TO RECOMMEND ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS OR AGENCIES, 2) /RECOMMENDATIONS/ FOR ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS, ECOSOC, UNGA, ETC., OR 3) /CONCLUSIONS/ ON THE WORLD'S FOOD SITUATION AND THAT WOULD NEED TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE IT. THERE WAS NO OPPOSITION TO THIS FORMULATION (NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT RESOLUTIONS), EXCEPT THAT MEXICO HELD THAT THE MINISTERS SHOULD THEMSELVES DECIDE WHAT FORM THE ACTIONS SHOULD TAKE. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONDED TO THIS LAST BY SAYING THAT IT SHOULD BE HOPED THIS COULD BE RESOLVED IN THE PREPARATORY MEETING SINCE MUCH TIME HAD BEEN WASTED IN THE SECOND MINISTERIAL MEETING ARGUING ABOUT FORM.

I. ON THE REPORT OF THE COUNCIL TO THE UNGA, THE PAPER PROPOSED THAT THEREPORT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN 1) ORGANIZATIONAL, PROCEDURAL MATTERS AND GENERAL STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES, AND 2) THE COUNCIL'S DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, OR CONCLUSIONS. THE MINISTERIAL SESSIONS SHOULD FOCUS ON THE LATTER. THE OTHER  
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PARTS SHOULD BE PREPARED BY THE RAPPORTEUR AND CIRCULATED IN DRAFT. AFTER ANY AMENDMENTS AT THE SUGGESTION OF DELEGATIONS, THE RAPPORTEUR WOULD THEN FINALIZE THIS PORTION. THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROCEDURE. YUGOSLAVIA SUGGESTED. HOWEVER, THAT THE DECISIONS PART BE PUT FIRST IN ORDER.

2. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OUTSIDE THE OUTLINE OF THE PAPER PRESENTED ON ORGANIZATION EXCEPT A SUGGESTION BY THE SECRETARIAT THAT IN ADDITION TO THE NEXT MONTHLY CONSULTATION, IN LATE MARCH, A FURTHER MEETING MAY BE NECESSARY IN APRIL. THIS CAN BE DECIDED IN THE MARCH MEETING.BEAUDRY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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